

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/985,851

Examiner

Ronald Laneau

Applicant(s)

NISHIWAKI ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 2/9/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 3, 4, 11, 12, 14 and 19 now renumbered as 1-6.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 02092006
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Reasons for Allowance

1. Claims 3, 4, 11, 12, 14 and 19 are allowed and now renumbered as 1-6.

The present invention is directed to a system and method of operating a sales supporting system and method associated with a navigation system to provide store information, said sales supporting system and method comprising:

As per claims 3-4, means for calculating priority level judging parameters P_c on costs, in the case where a route undergoes changes, based on sums of balances between the costs C_2 subject to route changes and the costs C_1 prior to route changes and prices of the goods; means for calculating priority level judging parameters P_t on time from increased portions of required times given by the required times T_1 and T_2 ; priority setting means for calculating comprehensive priority level judging parameters P according to a formula $P = W_c \times P_c + W_t \times P_t$ with weighting W_c toward priority levels on costs and weighting W_t toward priority levels on time that are set in advance, to give higher priority to stores for purchase in order of smaller comprehensive priority level judging parameters P ; and means for notifying the purchasers of store information based on set priority.

As per claim 11, wherein said store information storage means comprises: means for counting distances that the purchasers move from the time when the store information is transmitted from said store information transmitting means or from the time when said store listing means receives the store information; and means for disposing of, among the store information stored, pieces of store information for which said distances exceed a threshold value set in advance.

As per claim 12, wherein said sales supporting system further comprises means for specifying current positions of the purchasers, wherein said store information storage means comprises: means for counting distances between the current positions of the purchasers and the stores based on information on the current positions of the purchasers, which are given by said means for specifying current positions of the purchasers, and positions of the stores included in the store information; and means for deleting, among the store information stored, pieces of store information for which said distances exceed a threshold value set in advance.

As per claim 14, wherein said sales supporting system further comprises means for specifying current positions of the purchasers, wherein said store information storage means comprises: store-to-purchaser distance calculation means for giving distances between the current positions of the purchasers and the stores based on information on the current position of the purchasers, which are given by said means for specifying current positions of the purchasers, and positions of the stores included in the store information, means for comparing the largest distance among the distances of the currently stored store information given by said store-to-purchaser distance calculation means with the distance of newly received store information given by said store-to-purchaser distance calculation means when a region to store information is fulfilled; and means for deleting from storage a piece of information of the largest distance given by said store-to-purchaser distance calculation means among the distances of the store information currently stored so as to store newly received store information in the case where the distance of the newly received store information is smaller than or equal to any of the distances of the store information currently stored.

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As per claim 19, a step of calculating priority level judging parameters P_c on costs, in the case where a route undergoes changes, based on sums of balances between the costs C_2 subject to route changes and the costs C_1 prior to route changes and prices of the goods; a step of calculating priority level judging parameters P_t on time from increased portions of required times given by the required times T_1 and T_2 ; a step of calculating comprehensive priority level judging parameters P according to a formula $P = W_c \times P_c + W_t \times P_t$ with weighting W_c toward priority levels on costs and weighting W_t toward priority levels on time that are set in advance, to give higher priority to stores for purchase in order of smaller comprehensive priority level judging parameters P ; and a step of notifying the purchasers of store information based on set priority.

The closest prior art, MacGregor (US 2002/0087522 A1), Regarding claim 1, MacGregor discloses a sales supporting system associated with a navigation system to provide store information, said sale system comprising: store information transmitting means for transmitting store information (vendor server 312, see Figure 3) including information on at least goods and prices that stores are dealing in (see paragraph 0013), fails to disclose the above claimed limitations.

2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ronald Laneau whose telephone number is 703-305-3973. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM or via email: ronald.laneau@uspto.gov.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexander Kalinowski can be reached at 571-272-6771.

Ronald Laneau

Ronald Laneau
Examiner
Art Unit 2674

5/24/06

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May 25, 2006